

WARMINSTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER
of HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1950.

36 Market Place,
Warminster,
Wilts.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Warminster Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year
ended 31st December 1950 in accordance with the Ministry of Health
Circular 112/50 dated 6th December 1950.



I am,
Your obedient Servant,

JOSEPH REYNOLDS.

Medical Officer of Health.

Area of District...	5651 acres	(5651 acres)
Estimated Population (30th June 1950)	8150	(6990)
Number of Inhabited Houses, including Huts, at 31st December 1950...	1915	(1880)
Average Number of Persons per House....	4.25	(3.72)
Estimated Product of a Penny Rate.	£221	(218)
Rateable Value at 1st April 1950	£54,004	(£53,005).

Chairman of the Council Mr. E.S. Payne.

Chairman of the Public Health & Housing Committee, Mr. H.N. Dewey, J.P.

Senior Sanitary Inspector (Part-time).. W. Parks, M.I., Mun. E.,
C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector (Part-time)... F.J. Reilly, M.I. Mun. E.,
M.R.S.I.

Council Offices :

36 Market Place,
Warminster.

Telephone: Warminster 393

VITAL STATISTICS. (Figures for 1949 in brackets)

(a) Live Births

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total... ..	68 (77)	67 (70)	135 (147)
Legitimate... ..	64 (75)	63 (66)	127 (141)
Illegitimate	4 (2)	4 (4)	8 (6)

LIVE BIRTH RATE per 1,000 population

Warminster Urban District	16.6
England and Wales	15.8

Area comparability factor 1.14

<u>Previous Years</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>1945</u>
Warminster Urban District	21.0	21.3	24.8	22.0	18.4
England & Wales	16.7	17.9	20.5	19.1	16.1

(b) Still Births.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-

(c) Deaths of Infants, under four weeks of age.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Total	3	-
Legitimate	3	-
Illegitimate... ..	-	-

(d) Deaths of Infants under one year of age.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Total	3	-
Legitimate	3	-
Illegitimate	-	-

INFANT MORTALITY RATE

Warminster Urban District	22.2	(27.0)
England and Wales	29.8	(32.0)

(e) Deaths — Male 34 Female 28 Total 62

DEATH RATE per 1,000 population -

Warminster Urban District	... 7.6
England and Wales... ..	... 11.6

Area comparability factor 0.94

<u>Previous Years</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1947</u>
Warminster Urban			
District	12.6	10.1	12.3
England and Wales	11.7	10.8	12.0

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis...	... ..	Nil
Deaths from other Puerperal causes..	... ..	Nil
" " Cancer (all ages).	... ..	13
Measles (all ages)	... ..	Nil
Whooping Cough (all ages)...	... ..	Nil

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total.</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory...	-	1	1
2. Tuberculosis, other...	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic Disease...	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria...	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough...	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections...	-	1	1
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Disease.	-	1	1
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach.	2	-	2
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus.	2	-	2
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast.	-	1	1
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus.	-	1	1
14. Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms.	4	3	7
15. Leukaemia, Alukaemia.	1	-	1
16. Diabetes.	-	1	1
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System.	5	5	10
18. Coronary Disease, Angina...	2	1	3
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease..	1	2	3
20. Other Heart Diseases..	7	3	10
21. Other Circulatory Disease...	1	4	5
22. Influenza.	1	-	1
23. Pneumonia.	1	2	3
24. Bronchitis.	2	1	3
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System.	-	1	1
Total Carried Forward	29	26	55

CAUSES OF DEATH (cont).

	<u>Brought Fwd.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	29	26	55	
26. Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum ...	-	-	-	
27. Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhoea	-	-	-	
28. Nephritis & Nephrosis	-	-	-	
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate... ..	-	-	-	
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-	-	
31. Congenital Malformations.. ...	1	1	2	
32. Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases... ..	3	1	4	
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents... ..	-	-	-	
34. All other Accidents	1	-	1	
35. Suicide	-	-	-	
36. Homicide and Operations of War	-	-	-	
Total	34	28	62	

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	<u>Scarlet Fever</u>	<u>Whooping Cough</u>	<u>Dysentery</u>	<u>Erysipelas</u>	<u>Acute Poliomyelitis</u>	<u>Measles</u>
January	1	-	-	-	-	-
February	1	-	-	-	-	-
March	-	1	-	-	-	-
April	-	15	-	-	-	-
May	3	1	-	-	-	-
June	3	-	-	-	-	-
July	-	1	1	-	-	-
August	3	1	-	1	1	1
September	-	-	-	-	-	-
October	2	1	1	-	-	4
November	5	-	-	-	-	2
December	1	1	-	-	-	-
Totals	19	21	2	1	1	7
Total - 51						

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

A clinic is held regularly on the fourth Friday in each month at 1.45 p.m. at the Methodist School Room, George Street, under the aegis of the County Council. All medical practitioners in the district are willing to immunize any children under their general care. Parents are requested to have immunization completed before the child reaches the age of one year and to present the child for the first injection when it reaches the age of eight or nine months.

During 1950 the number of children in Warminster who completed a full course of primary immunization was 98. Reinforcing injections numbered 79.

Total Immunized Child Population at 31st December 1950.

	<u>Under 1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5-9</u>	<u>10-14</u>	<u>Total under 15</u>
0	71	107	102	98	424	439	1241	

It can be seen from the table of Notifications of Infectious Disease that once again there was not a single case of Diphtheria in the District 1950. This happy state of affairs does not promise to continue for whereas the age group 5-15 years in the district is nearly 100% protected, the age group 0-4 is less than 60% protected. I ask all mothers with children under five years of age who have not been immunized to take the child to the family doctor or to the Clinic noted above and ask for the child to receive the necessary injections. To wait until the disease breaks out in the community is to court unnecessary danger, with the possibility of death to the unprotected children.

VACCINATION.

This service is the responsibility of the County Council and it provides for vaccination, free of charge, by any medical practitioner. Statistics are not available to show how many children are vaccinated in each District but this Urban District will, I am sure, compare favourably with other County Districts. For this continued interest in vaccination I am grateful to the general practitioners who have stressed the importance of vaccination to their patients. All medical men are appreciative of the danger of an epidemic of smallpox, a danger which is enhanced in this District by the constant influx of military personnel and civilians from the Middle and Far East to the Military schools and camps. The increasing use of Air Transport undoubtedly increases the risk of a case of smallpox entering the District during the incubation period of the disease before diagnosis is possible.

The old adage "prevention is better than cure" is particularly applicable to smallpox and I strongly recommend parents to ensure that all infants are vaccinated during the first year of life.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases notified during 1950 (including transfers in) :

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>
Males	5	Males	-
Females	5	Females	1

One case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was transferred in.

Deaths from Tuberculosis in 1950.

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>
Males	-	Males	-
Females	1	Females	-

Number of Tuberculosis Cases on Register up to 31.12.50.

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>
Males	20	Males	14
Females	23	Females	8

CLINICS.

The following County Council Clinics serve the district :-

(a) Ante Natal:

At the Maternity Hospitals concerned.

Consultant Clinics are at Trowbridge for patients referred by their own doctor or midwife

(b) Infant Welfare:

On the first and third Fridays of each month at the Methodist Chapel, George Street, at 2.30 p.m.

(c) Orthopaedic:

At Salisbury, Trowbridge and Devizes by invitation.

(d) Ear, Nose and Throat.

By invitation.

(e) Tuberculosis.

Trowbridge, every Wednesday at 10 a.m.

Salisbury, every Tuesday at 10 a.m.

(Children at 2 p.m). By invitation.

CLINICS (cont).(f) Venereal Diseases:

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
R.U.H. (Bath):	Friday, 5 p.m. Saturday, 5 p.m.	Tuesday, 5 p.m. Friday, 2.30 p.m.
Salisbury Infirmary:	Tuesday, 11.30 a.m. Friday, 6 p.m.	Wednesday, 6 p.m. Saturday, 11.30 a.m.
Trowbridge (The Halve):	Thursday, 5 p.m.	Tuesday, 5 p.m.

WATER.

The Arn Hill supply continues to be a wholesome water although complaints are made in regard to it being a hard water. Hard water has no effect whatever on health and similar supplies to this in the rest of the County, equally hard, give rise to no complaints, nor do complaints arise elsewhere in regard to the suitability of the similar waters for domestic or steam raising purposes. Below is a table permitting comparison with the previous supply from Shearwater:

Date of Sample.	<u>Hardness in Parts Per 100,000.</u>			
	<u>Shearwater</u>		<u>Arn Hill Supply.</u>	
21.3.50	Total Hardness	6.2	Total Hardness	22.6
	Temporary "	2.7	Temporary "	20.3
	Permanent "	3.5	Permanent "	2.3
	At 65°C. after half-an-hour			
				18.6
	After 2 hours			15.3
	After 4 hours			10.3
	At 90°C. after half-an-hour			
				10.1
	After 1 hours at 65° approximately half the temporary hardness has deposited.			
8.5.50	Total Hardness	7.4	Total Hardness	20.0
	Temporary "	2.8	Temporary "	16.9
	Permanent "	4.6	Permanent "	3.1
31.7.50	Total Hardness	8.8	Total Hardness	20.0
	Temporary "	2.1	Temporary "	15.7
	Permanent "	6.7	Permanent "	4.3
11.9.50	Total Hardness	10.4	Total Hardness	19.4
	Temporary "	3.9	Temporary "	14.5
	Permanent "	6.5	Permanent "	4.9
18.10.50	Total Hardness	7.4	Total Hardness	22.8
	Temporary "	2.4	Temporary "	16.6
	Permanent "	5.0	Permanent "	6.2

The Shearwater supply is unchanged being plumbo solvent and grossly polluted as the tables (infra) show. 28 bacteriological samples were taken during the year from the town mains and on 10 occasions B.Coli were present in the samples showing pollution and, on two occasions, even Faecal B.Coli were present. This is a most unsatisfactory water for public supply when organisms can persist despite attempted sterilisation by chlorination at the pumping station. Fortunately this contamination of the water was not attended by untoward results but the good fortune cannot be expected to continue and I am pleased that the Council has decided to abandon the Shearwater source (as advised in my last report) immediately an alternative supply can be made available.

BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS.

<u>Untreated Water.</u>		Bact. Colonies Count per lml.	Estimated Coli Aerogenes per 100ml	Estimated Faecal B.Coli per 100ml.
13.2.50	Holy	12	180+	3
	Keepers	2	8	0
	Jersey	1	5	0
31.7.50	Holy	24	8	3
	Keepers	18	17	5
	Jersey	2	3	3
28.8.50	Holy	12	35	0
	Keepers	4	90	5
	Jersey	36	180+	11
4.9.50	Holy	2	13	5
	Keepers	7	35	7
	Jersey	7	25	3

Treated Water.

9.1.50	4 West Parade	2	0	0
23.1.50	10 " "	19	0	0
6.2.50	62 Boreham Road	2	8	0
21.2.50	9a " "	1	3	0
6.3.50	62 " "	0	0	0
20.3.50	74 " "	1	7	0
3.4.50	196 " "	0	3	0
17.4.50	Ministry Offices Boreham Road	1	0	0
1.5.50	166 Boreham	2	0	0
8.5.50	7 The Tynning	1	0	0
15.5.50	80 Boreham Road	1	8	0
30.5.50	82 " "	0	0	0
26.6.50	191 " "	3	0	0
10.7.50	81 " "	0	0	0
24.7.50	62a " "	0	3	3
31.7.50	62a " "	0	0	0
14.8.50	74 " "	1	0	0
28.8.50	4 Fore Street	0	0	0
11.9.50	St. John's School Boreham Road	0	5	0
11.9.50	8 Fore Street	3	11	5
25.9.50	63 Boreham Road	0	0	0
10.10.50	18 Bath Road	1	8	0
18.10.50	"Bell & Crown"	0	0	0
23.10.50	62a Boreham Road	7	0	0
6.11.50	11 Bradley Road	1	0	0
20.11.50	11 " "	2	160	0
5.12.50	"Bell & Crown"	0	0	0
13.12.50	11 Bradley Road	0	0	0

The Acid Reaction of the Shearwater Supply in Terms of
Hydrogen Ion Concentration.

<u>Raw Water.</u>		<u>Treated Water.</u>
13.2.50	Holy 6.0	11.9.50 St. John's School 6.5
	Keepers 6.1	18.10.50 "Bell & Crown" 6.5
	Jersey 6.1	

The Arn Hill Supply shows a constantly alkaline reaction Ph 7.3

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

During the year no action was taken under the National Assistance Act, 1948.

HOUSING.

During this year considerable progress has been made with the Council's housing schemes., 32 houses being completed at The Ridgeway, and a start being made at Boreham Field.

Despite the difficulty which some individual developers have experienced in acquiring suitable sites within the District, 8 houses have been completed by private enterprise.

Although living accommodation is still scarce, the position appears to have eased slightly and, provided the Council's schemes make the expected progress, should continue to do so.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR
THE YEAR 1950.

Water Supply.

Number of Dwelling Houses supplied from Public
Water Mains:

(a) Direct to the houses, 1866; (b) by means of standpipes, 50.

Number of Population supplied from Public Water
Mains :

(a) Direct to the houses, 8,000; (b) by standpipes, 150.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The new Sewage Disposal Works has been nearly completed, but, owing to delays in the delivery of pumping machinery and shortage of skilled fitters, it will not be in operation until the Spring of 1951.

Land irrigation of the sewage has been continued throughout this year, the effluent being as satisfactory as can be expected, having regard to the unavoidable difficulties arising from the construction of the new Works.

The sewers in King Street and the southern half of Bread Street have been re-laid under the reconstruction scheme. The northern half of the Bread Street sewer was found to be in good condition and was not therefore re-laid.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Tipping has been continued at the Furneaux Lane site, with fairly satisfactory results. Rat infestation has occurred as in previous years, but adequate treatment has kept it well under control.

There is prospect of rising prices making the segregation of waste paper an economic business, and it is hoped to start separate collection and baling in the near future.

DISINFESTATION.

The Rodent Officer is still employed jointly by this District the Westbury U.D.C. and the Warminster & Westbury R.D.C. The number of cases requiring attention makes prompt treatment a matter of difficulty, serious cases can, however, be dealt with immediately, and the less serious cases with reasonable promptness, and infestation is being kept well under control.

LONG-TERM PLANNING.

The shortage of suitable and procurable building sites for individual developers has caused some anxiety, although nearly all the developers who have been allocated licences have succeeded in obtaining sites.

A development plan for the town is in course of preparation by the Planning Authority, and a map showing suggested residential areas has already been completed.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

An analysis of the Sanitary Inspections made during the year is attached :

Housing (including Council Houses & Flats, etc.)...	949
Overcrowding...	32
Factories and Workshops...	71
Cowsheds and Dairies ...	64
Ice Cream Manufacture ...	34
Fried Fish Shops ...	12
Bakehouses ...	26
Meat Shops and Stores ...	29
Offensive Trades ...	8
Schools...	2
Tents, Vans and Sheds ...	14
Rat Infestation ...	64
Infectious Diseases ...	18
Water Supplies ...	178
Sewage Disposal ...	146
Refuse Collection and Disposal ...	72
Works in Progress...	284
Meat and other Foods ...	22
Miscellaneous, ...	102

	<u>Notices Served.</u>		<u>Statutory</u>	<u>Total.</u>
		<u>Informal</u>		
Public Health Acts..	...	31	—	31
Housing Acts...	...	25	—	25
Other Statutes	...	20	—	20
		<hr/> 76	—	76
Outstanding, December 1949	...	<hr/> 5	—	
		81	—	
Complied with..	...	75	—	
Outstanding, December, 1950...		6	—	

Foodstuffs Condemned as Unfit for Human Consumption.

<u>Commodity.</u>	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Weight.</u>		
		<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>ct.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>
Carcass meat, Poultry and Game...	1	3	1	2½
Cheese and Butter	—	—	—	—
Fish	—	—	6	—
Bacon	—	—	—	7
Fruits, cereals and flour...	—	—	—	—
Canned, bottled and packeted foods ..	—	2	6	7¼
Total approximate weight condemned...	1	6	6	3

Factories Act, 1937 and 1948.

<u>Number on Register.</u>	<u>Number of Inspections</u>	<u>Number of Written Notices.</u>	<u>Number of Occupiers Prosecuted.</u>
45	63	Nil	Nil

Number of Cases in which Defects were Found.

	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred by H.M. Inspector.</u>
Insufficient Sanitary Conveniences	1	1	1

The Number of Outworkers in August, all engaged in the Cleaning and Washing, Making, etc., of Wearing Apparel, was 210.